

Report to	Findon Parish Council
Meeting Date	19 January 2026
From	Fiona MacLeod, Clerk
Title of Report	Precept/budget for 2026/27
Purpose of Report	To approve the precept/budget for 2026/27

1. Precept/budget proposals

- 1.1 A discussion and line by line review of the draft working documents was undertaken by members of the Finance & Governance (F&G) Committee at its meeting on 9 January 2026. The Budget/Precept and Summary Position documents have been circulated to councillors and include comments/assumptions for ease of reference. The documents have been compiled by the Clerk in consultation with councillors and are based on the previous years budgeted expenditure, and the current and projected expenditure up to year end (31 March 2026).
- 1.2 Although FPC has absorbed the grass cutting increases during the current financial year, it is not currently known what the costs will be for the 2026/27 until the tender process has been completed. Furthermore, depending on the outcome of the tender process, there may be the need to budget for a replacement greens mower and this is reflected in the Summary Position as circulated to councillors. The Precept/Budget and Summary Position tables are not yet in the public domain as they contain business sensitive information regarding the above costs.
- 1.3 As has been mentioned in previous years, the Government remains concerned about the pressure placed on taxpayers from town and parish councils across England and expects these councils to exercise restraint. There are no council tax referendum proposals for town and parish councils in 2026/27, however the Government will keep the situation under active review for future years. It is also not known what impact the ongoing Local Government Reorganisation process will have for parish councils.
- 1.4 The precept for 2025/26 is £63.26 pa per Band D household based on a tax base of 980 households. Arun District Council (ADC) has calculated that the tax base for 2026/27 is 988. ADC use a report from its Revenues system that lists all the dwellings at that particular point in time on the valuation list. The report provides a tax base figure which is then adjusted for any new dwellings in the pipeline and it can also increase/decrease due to changes in discounts, reliefs or exemptions. In addition, the final figures are based on Band D equivalents and therefore numbers may look lower if houses are in Bands A-C rather than D-H.
- 1.5 Using the ADC tax base of 988 and based on the precept increasing from £62k to £75k, my understanding is that this would equate to an increase of £12.74 per annum or £0.24p per week on the local charge for Band D equivalent. The proposed precept for 2026/27 pa for a Band D household would be £76.00.
- 1.6 In a letter to all parish councils, ADC requested confirmation of the parish council's precept requirement to be received by them no later than 28 January 2026.

2. For recommendation to full Council

- 2.1 The Precept/Budget table and Summary Position as circulated to councillors be approved and ADC advised accordingly of the Precept requirement of £75k.